Tacoma Dome
Link Extension

Community Engagement Guide

Summer 2018

SoundTransit

Table of Contents

1 Overview

4 Engagement goals

5 Community snapshot

7 Equity and inclusion

8 Audiences

9 Engagement tools

11 How do I engage?

13 Roles and responsibilities

15 Community engagement and collaboration process

16 Get involved

17 Glossary of terms

Overview

Introduction

With the November 2016 voter approval of **Sound Transit 3 (ST3)**, Sound Transit will undertake an ambitious mass transit system expansion. The Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) is one piece of the expansion plan that will add 9.7 miles of light rail service connecting Pierce and South King County residents to the regional light rail network, and will site an essential operations and maintenance facility to support the regional network. The project travels through the cities of Federal Way, Milton, Fife, and Tacoma and the reservation of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. The project includes stations at South Federal Way, Fife, East Tacoma and the Tacoma Dome Station area.

Planning for this project is underway and your participation is important. To get to construction more quickly, the project team has established an aggressive planning and environmental analysis timeline. Throughout the **alternatives development** phase, staff will engage the public in an intensive public involvement process that will lead to the Sound Transit Board identifying a **preferred alternative**, as well as other alternatives, to evaluate in an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**.

During the alternatives development phase, we'll be asking you about several aspects of the project, such as the route, station locations, construction impacts, bus and rail integration, and bicycle/pedestrian connectivity. We strive to create outreach opportunities that are inclusive and meaningful, and will announce these opportunities through a variety of communications channels. We hope that you will join us in planning Link light rail extensions that are valuable to all.

This plan is your guide to engaging in the project. It explains:

- Sound Transit's goals and guiding principles for external engagement.
- How you can get involved.
- Sound Transit's methods for gathering feedback.
- Roles, responsibilities and how decisions will be made.

This plan will be updated as the project completes the planning phase and proceeds on to future phases.

What is a representative project?

The ST3 Plan approved by voters established the transit mode, corridor, number of stations, general station locations and related features. The TDLE representative project is the starting place from which project alternatives will be developed.

How was it developed?

The representative project itself is the result of extensive and years-long planning and public involvement work.

For more information about how the representative project and the ST3 plan were shaped by public input, visit soundtransit.org/st3

See a word in **bold**?
Find it in our glossary (page 17) for more information about that term.

CHECK OUT THE GLOSSARY
PAGE 17 ›

Project background

Sound Transit is a public transit agency that plans, builds and operates express bus, light rail and commuter train services in the urban areas of King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. The Tacoma Dome Link Extension will provide fast, reliable light rail connections to residential and job centers throughout the region while providing capacity for the system to operate efficiently.

The project will allow for a direct connection to the South Sound with four stations: Tacoma Dome, East Tacoma, Fife and South Federal Way. In addition, an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) is needed to support the overall system expansion. Tacoma Dome station will serve as a multi-modal transit hub, with transfer options to and from Sounder service, Tacoma Link and Pierce Transit and Sound Transit buses.

Looking for more information?

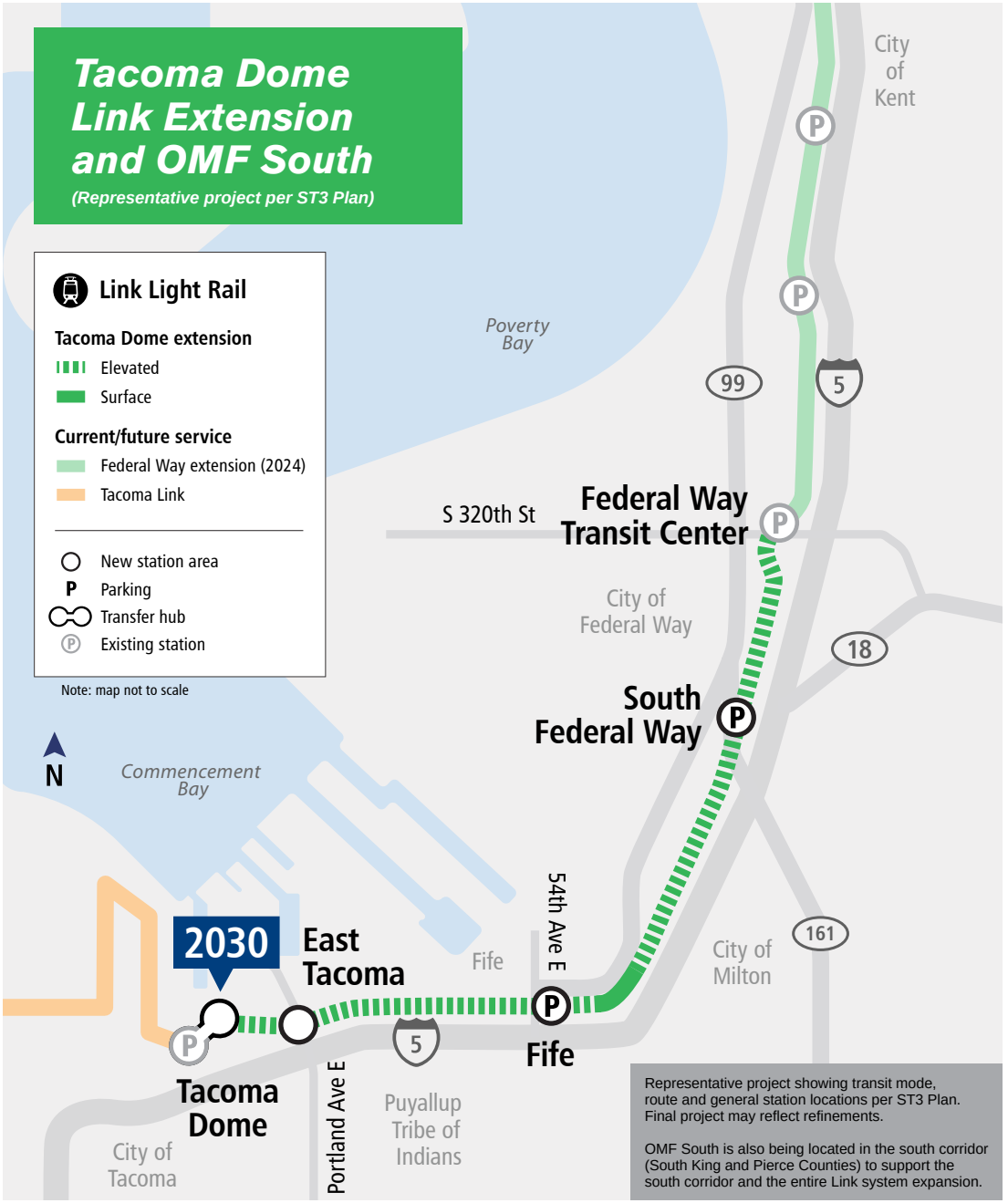
Looking for a full history of and details about the ST3 plan? Visit www.soundtransit.org/st3

GET INVOLVED

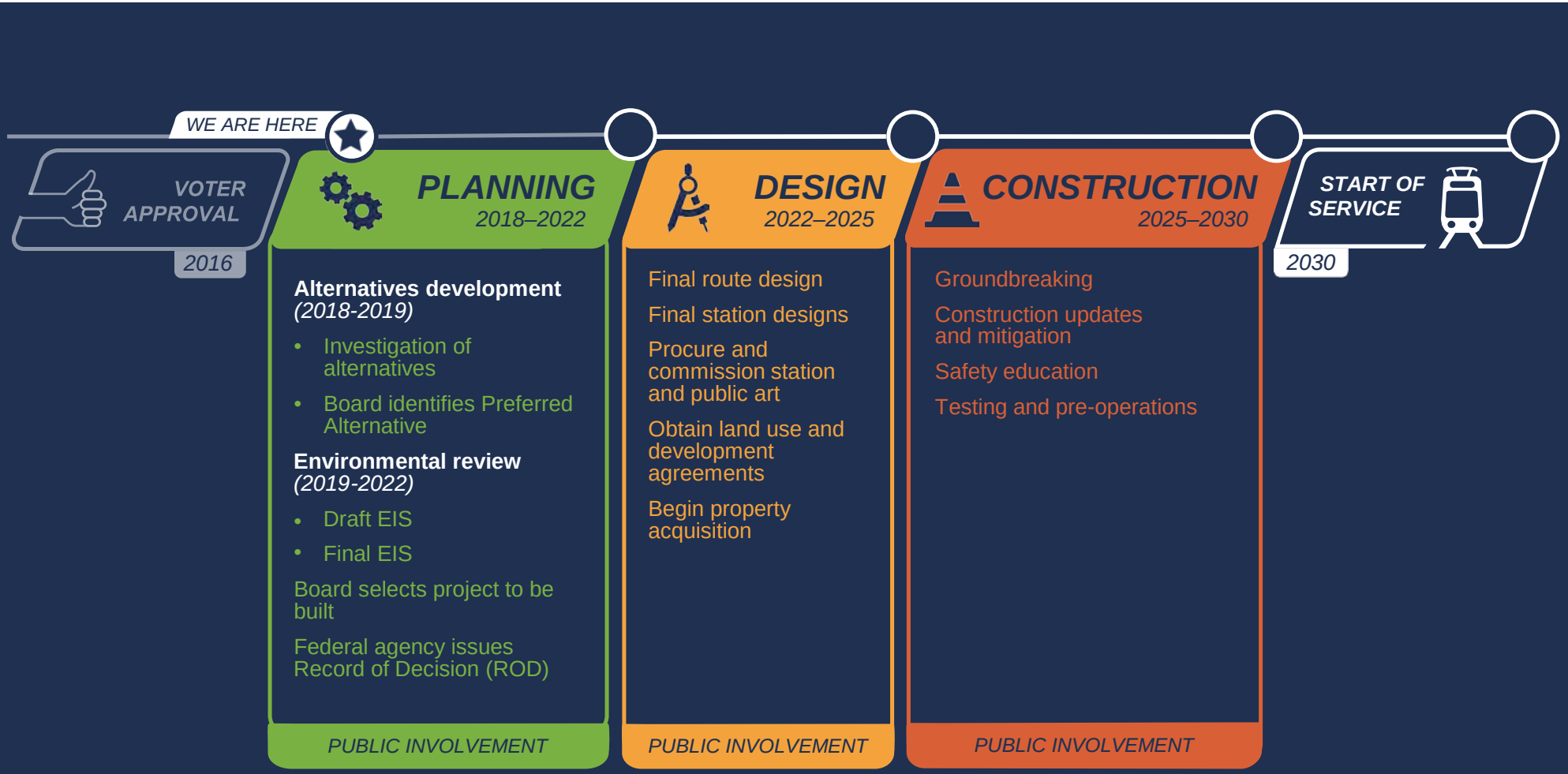
Visit web page and sign-up for project news
www.soundtransit.org/tdlink

Email tdlink@soundtransit.org

Call 206-903-7118



Anticipated project schedule



Engagement goals

Be proactive

Engage audiences, including the communities most affected by the project, in conversations that lead to an early agreement on a preferred alternative.

Our commitment to you: Through a wide range of communications channels, Sound Transit will let you know about opportunities to engage in the project as it progresses.

Be transparent

Foster public trust through transparent communication, meaningful and inclusive **public engagement**, and timely responses to project questions and feedback.

Our commitment to you: Sound Transit will communicate to you in ways that are clear, consistent and accessible.

Encourage awareness

Encourage awareness of the benefits, effects and progress of the project.

Our commitment to you: Sound Transit will use a variety of communication tools to share information about the project and opportunities to get involved throughout the life of the project.

Be accountable

Ensure accountability by clearly communicating when, where and how public feedback was used to make project decisions.

Our commitment to you: Sound Transit will ask communities, including those most impacted by the project, and the public to provide feedback and input throughout the decision-making process and at key milestones. Sound Transit will review and analyze this feedback and report back on how it was considered and incorporated into the decision-making process.

Ensure accessibility

Ensure accessibility by presenting project information in easy-to-read and understandable formats, including in-language documents, with an eye toward accessibility for all audiences.

Our commitment to you: Opportunities and methods for engagement shall be accessible and thoughtful to communities where they are held, e.g., through responsive online tools, or convenient times when events are held.

Community snapshot

The Tacoma Dome Link Extension project area serves four distinct cities: Tacoma, Federal Way, Fife and Milton, as well as the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Reservation. The region has a strong economic presence due to the Port of Tacoma and a thriving manufacturing, transportation and retail landscape. Demographically, the project area is diverse with significant foreign-born populations. The snapshots below explore these areas and groups in further detail.

Tacoma

Tacoma is the third largest city in the state of Washington, with a population of over 213,000. Tacoma is home to a variety of businesses, with major employment areas including healthcare, education, public administration, insurance, and social assistance. Almost a third of Tacoma residents commute outside of Pierce County to get to work. Tacoma is a major educational hub, as home to the University of Washington Tacoma, the University of Puget Sound, The Evergreen State College Tacoma campus, Bates Technical College, and other local colleges. The "City of Destiny" also draws regional visitors to destinations such as the Tacoma Dome, the Museum of Glass and Point Defiance Park.

Tacoma is diverse, with a population that is close to 11 percent Hispanic or Latino, 10 percent African American, nine percent Asian, and one percent American Indian or Alaska Native. Close to 9 percent of Tacoma residents identify as two or more races.

Federal Way

Today, the Federal Way community is residential and commercial with a population employed locally and in neighboring cities such as SeaTac, Kent, Tacoma, Bellevue and Seattle. In 2012, the retail and wholesale trade sectors were the largest in Federal Way.

Federal Way has a diverse population, with a foreign-born segment that accounts for 23 percent of its more than 96,000 residents. The largest representative groups within this population are of Korean, Hispanic, Russian and Ukrainian descent.

Fife

Fife was home to more than 10,000 people in 2017. Despite its relatively small population, almost 23 percent of Fife's residents are foreign-born. Individuals of Asian and Hispanic heritage represent the largest portion of this international community. More than 32 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Similar to Milton, Korean and Spanish are the most prominent non-English languages spoken in Fife.

The City of Fife has historically been an agriculture and food-processing center and is a thriving warehouse, distribution and transportation district; nearly 25 percent of all the city's land is industrially-zoned. Many well-known firms have locations in Fife, including Milgard, Lusamerica, Mission Foods and American Fast Freight. As a result, the two largest employment sectors are transportation, and warehousing and manufacturing.

Milton

Milton began as a lumber-mill town at the beginning of the 20th century. The city is located near larger employment centers and provides a residential refuge for individuals employed in Tacoma, SeaTac, Kent and Seattle. As of 2017, Milton's population was approximately 8,000 people. The demographic makeup includes 6 percent identifying as Asian descent and roughly 6.5 percent identifying as Hispanic. Of the 7.6 percent of the population that speaks a language other than English at home, Korean and Spanish are the most common languages. While Milton is primarily a residential community, its service industry accounted for a large portion of retail sales.

Puyallup Tribe of Indians

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians are a federally-recognized Native American tribe with reservation lands primarily in Pierce County. The TDLE project includes construction of light rail across the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Reservation and will span a section of the Puyallup River that is owned by the Tribe. The Puyallup Tribe have occupied this area for thousands of years, and continue to hunt, fish and gather here today. The Puyallup Reservation is one of the most urban reservations in the United States. As a result, the Puyallup Tribe has strong connections with the surrounding communities.

The Puyallup Tribe represents a significant economic presence in the region. The Tribe owns both locations of the Emerald Queen Casino, a major employer in the region with one location in Fife and one in Tacoma. The Puyallup Tribe also uses its economic development arm, Marine View Ventures, to invest in and expand on reservation resources.

Equity and inclusion

Sound Transit is committed to delivering projects that support an equitable transportation system. The Tacoma Dome Link Extension Project, like many ST3 projects, is large and complex, and will bring both benefits and impacts to the communities along the project route. Sound Transit will analyze project impacts and evaluate whether the project would result in disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and/or low-income populations. If there are disproportionately high impacts, Sound Transit will look for ways to mitigate those impacts and/or offset them with community benefits. We strive to engage the public and underserved populations throughout the public involvement process, however, it is especially important during the alternatives development phase, when a preferred alternative will be identified.

In order to gather your ideas and feedback about various alternatives, Sound Transit will provide meaningful engagement opportunities that are designed to meet the unique needs of low-income, minority and non-English speaking groups. Some of those opportunities include:

- Conducting interviews with social service providers to better understand various populations in the project area.
- Providing translators at public meetings and community gatherings.
- Translating key materials into languages spoken along the project corridor.
- Holding smaller meetings focused on individual communities.
- Meeting communities where they gather, like houses of worship, community centers and people's homes.

In addition, Sound Transit will conduct an **environmental justice analysis** in compliance with federal regulations. The analysis will describe the demographics of the project corridor, evaluate whether the project would disproportionately impact minority and low-income communities, and document our efforts to involve minority and low-income populations in the planning process.

If you are interested in learning more about this project and how it may benefit and/or impact your community, please contact us at 206-903-7118 or tdlink@soundtransit.org. We will work with you to find an appropriate opportunity for providing project information.

Audiences

Sound Transit will actively engage a variety of audiences; however, we have broken them down into three key categories: neighborhood and community stakeholders, general public and the media. Roles for elected officials serving on the Sound Transit Board and Elected Leadership Group, as well as stakeholders serving on the Stakeholder Group, are described in the roles and responsibilities section.

Neighborhood and community stakeholders

- Advocacy groups
- Apartment complexes and rental office staff
- Businesses, including small and minority-owned businesses
- Communities of color
- Community-based organizations
- Cultural groups
- Current and future transit riders
- Immigrant and refugee populations
- Limited English-speaking populations
- Low-income households
- People with disabilities
- Renters and homeowners
- Social service organizations

Public

People who live, work and commute in, through and around the Puget Sound region.

Media

Print, digital and broadcast media, including community, local and ethnic media sources.

Engagement tools

Online

Website

The project webpage, within the Sound Transit website, provides the hub for all up-to-date project information. The webpage will be updated frequently with the latest project information, opportunities to be involved, upcoming events and meetings, project materials and more.

E-newsletters

E-newsletters will be sent on a regular basis to the project's e-mail subscriber list. E-newsletters will include up-to-date information on the project and be sent to people who have opted-in. Sign-up on the project webpage.

Social media

Sound Transit will utilize existing social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to share news and updates about the Tacoma Dome Link Extension. You can find us at @SoundTransit.

In person

Open houses (in-person and online open houses)

Open houses will be held at key milestones and decision points during the entirety of the project, including when public feedback is sought to help inform key decisions during the alternatives development process. In-person open houses will take place in various locations and will be accompanied by online open houses for those who can't or choose not to attend a meeting.

Briefings and meetings

Sound Transit will proactively reach out to community, business and interest groups to offer project updates. Any community, business or interest group may request a briefing from the project team by emailing tdlink@soundtransit.org or calling 206-903-7118. We will prioritize traditionally underrepresented groups and can join you in your workplace or training events to give quick project updates.

Fairs and festivals

During the spring, summer and fall, our outreach staff will be in communities around the region and along the project corridor at farmers markets, festivals and community events. We will be available to discuss the project in detail and answer your questions.

Pop-up outreach

Similar to fairs and festivals, Sound Transit may host pop-up outreach events, in coordination with key communities, so that project staff can reach neighbors in the locations they frequent, rather than asking them to come to Sound Transit.

Door-to-door outreach

Project team members may visit businesses and other entities along the corridor to share information in person.

Other ways to engage

Existing community engagement efforts

Sound Transit recognizes that there are many ongoing efforts to engage communities on a variety of topics. To make the best use of time, we will join existing efforts already underway to provide project updates.

English and translated materials

Fact sheets, infographics, presentations and other printed materials will be developed as needed throughout the project. Key materials will be translated into multiple languages. Materials may also include mailed notifications such as postcards or flyers. Streaming and interactive tools may also be used to enhance project reach.

Media

Media coverage can help reach audiences that might not otherwise know about the project or have an opportunity to be engaged through other means. Sound Transit will engage community, local, regional and ethnic media sources to ensure that accurate project information is shared and distributed via a variety of media outlets.

How do I engage?

Q How do I share my opinion?

There are many ways to share your opinion, including:

- Calling the project line at 206-903-7118.
- Emailing the project team at tdlink@soundtransit.org.
- Attending an open house.
- Visiting the website, responding to online surveys and following Sound Transit on social media.

Sound Transit provides involvement opportunities in conjunction with key project milestones, such as early scoping, and prior to decision-making.
We strive to create outreach opportunities that are inclusive and meaningful, and will announce these opportunities through a variety of communications channels.

Q How will public input shape this phase?

Numerous opportunities will be identified for elected officials, community and business groups, and the public to weigh in with their priorities and ideas, and to shape which other alternatives should be studied as part of the EIS. In June 2019, it is anticipated the Sound Transit Board will identify a preferred alternative and other alternatives to study in the EIS. Public engagement will continue through all subsequent phases of the project.

Q What type of feedback are you looking for during the alternatives development phase?

During alternatives development, staff will assess the representative project included in the Sound Transit 3 Plan and, based on additional public feedback and technical analysis, further refine the specific route, station locations, and other project elements.

Areas for feedback include:

- Station locations
- Operations and Maintenance Facility locations
- Construction
- Bus and rail integration
- Bicycle and pedestrian connectivity

Q Why is it important for me to engage now?

Alternatives development is a critical time in which to engage because it is during this phase that route, station locations, construction impacts and ultimately the preferred alternative will be identified. It is difficult to stay on schedule and budget if decisions are revisited in future project phases.

Q Can you provide information about this project in other languages?

Yes, we have translated materials on the website. If we are missing your language, please call our project line at 206-903-7118 and we will do our best to meet your needs. We will also provide translation services over the phone and at meetings if requested in advance.

Roles and responsibilities

Implementing this and other projects with the scope, budget and schedule approved by the voters will take extraordinary effort by Sound Transit and its federal, state and local partners. To meet the challenge of delivering projects as quickly as possible, Sound Transit developed a **System Expansion Implementation Plan** that embraces new ways of working together. Those adjustments include internal changes at Sound Transit, as well as new approaches to working with project partners, local jurisdictions, elected officials, community members and the public.

Public

As a member of the public, your job is to communicate your ideas, concerns and questions about the project through a variety of communications channels:

- Learn about the project and ask questions.
- Provide feedback on topics and issues that interest you.
- Communicate to Sound Transit how you want to be engaged.
- Share information and discuss the project with your community.

Stakeholder Group

The Stakeholder Group will provide a forum for community members to inform the development of alternatives for the project. The group includes residents, transit riders, business owners and representatives of business and community organizations throughout the corridor. Visit the webpage for more details. Stakeholder Group members will:

- Highlight issues and consider trade-offs along the route.
- Make recommendations on a preferred alternative to the Elected Leadership Group.

Station Area Workshops

In addition to Stakeholder Group meetings, Sound Transit will convene three series of Station Area Workshop. In each geography, the Stakeholder Group will break out to take a deeper dive into each station area. Local agency staff will join them for conversations around specific station issues as well as the Operations and Maintenance Facility. Sound Transit may seek additional voices at the table from the communities around each station area. This group and workshop series will convene throughout the planning process until a preferred alternative is identified.

Elected Leadership Group

The Elected Leadership Group is comprised of a Puyallup Tribal Councilmember, the mayors of the cities along the project corridor, Sound Transit Board Members and a Washington State Department of Transportation representative. The purpose of this group is to reach local agreement around key decisions and work through project issues as needed. Visit the webpage for more details. The Elected Leadership Group will:

- Appoint Stakeholder Group members.
- Work with project staff to understand and evaluate trade-offs, such as cost, constructability, development potential, environmental impacts, ridership, and others.
- Recommend a preferred alternative to the Sound Transit Board based on the recommendations from the Stakeholder Group, public input and the voter-approved project scope, schedule and budget. This group will convene throughout the planning process until a preferred alternative is identified.

Sound Transit Board

The Sound Transit Board will oversee the implementation and delivery of the project, and have final voting authority on identification of the preferred alternative and other major decisions. The Board will consider recommendations and feedback from the Elected Leadership Group, Stakeholder Group and public when making decisions.

Interagency Group

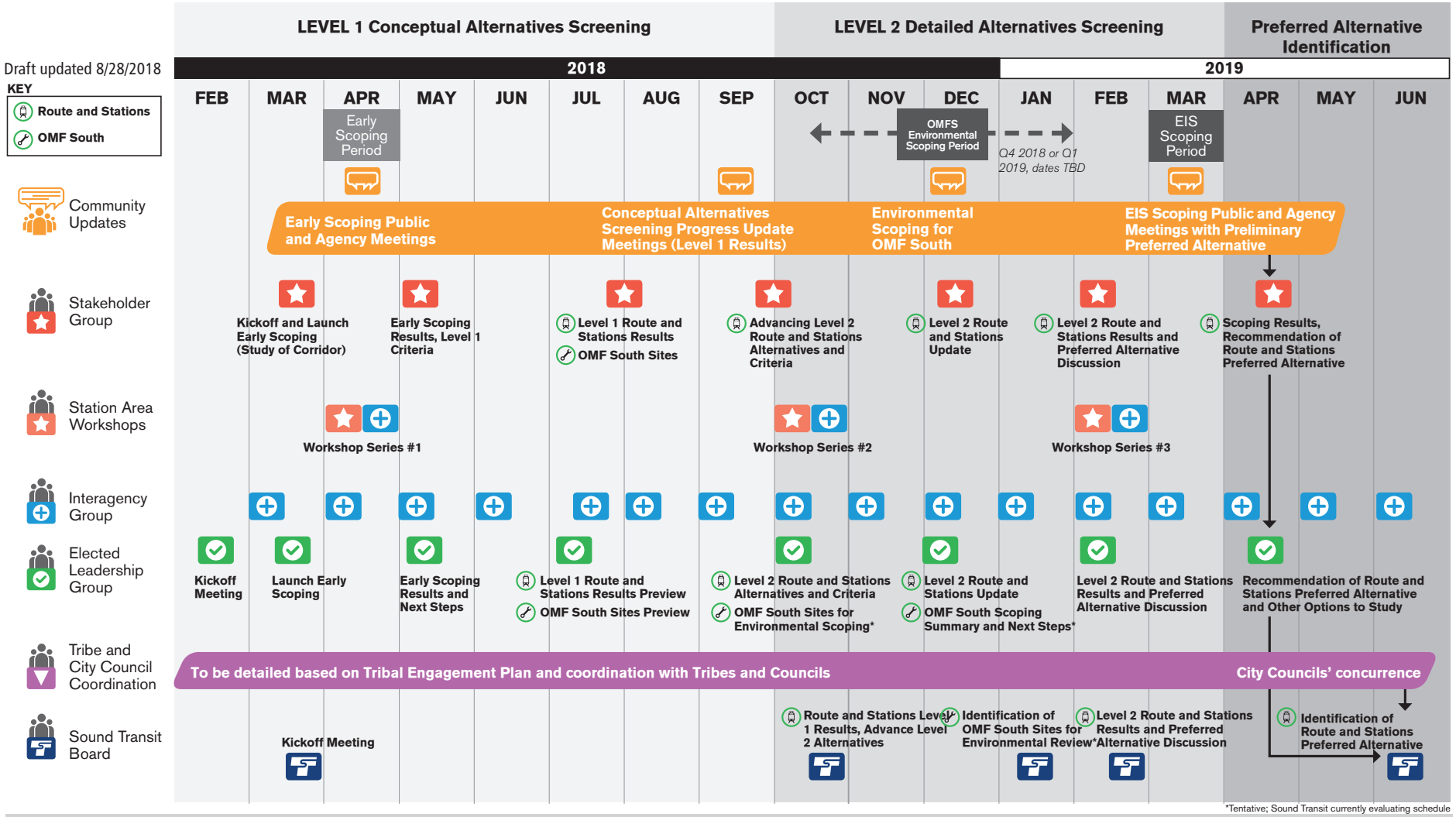
Sound Transit will work closely and coordinate with a number of agencies and governments as this project moves forward, including, but not limited to:

- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Federal Transit Administration
- City of Federal Way
- City of Fife
- City of Milton
- City of Tacoma
- King County
- Pierce County
- Port of Tacoma
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Federal Highways Administration
- Pierce Transit
- King County Metro

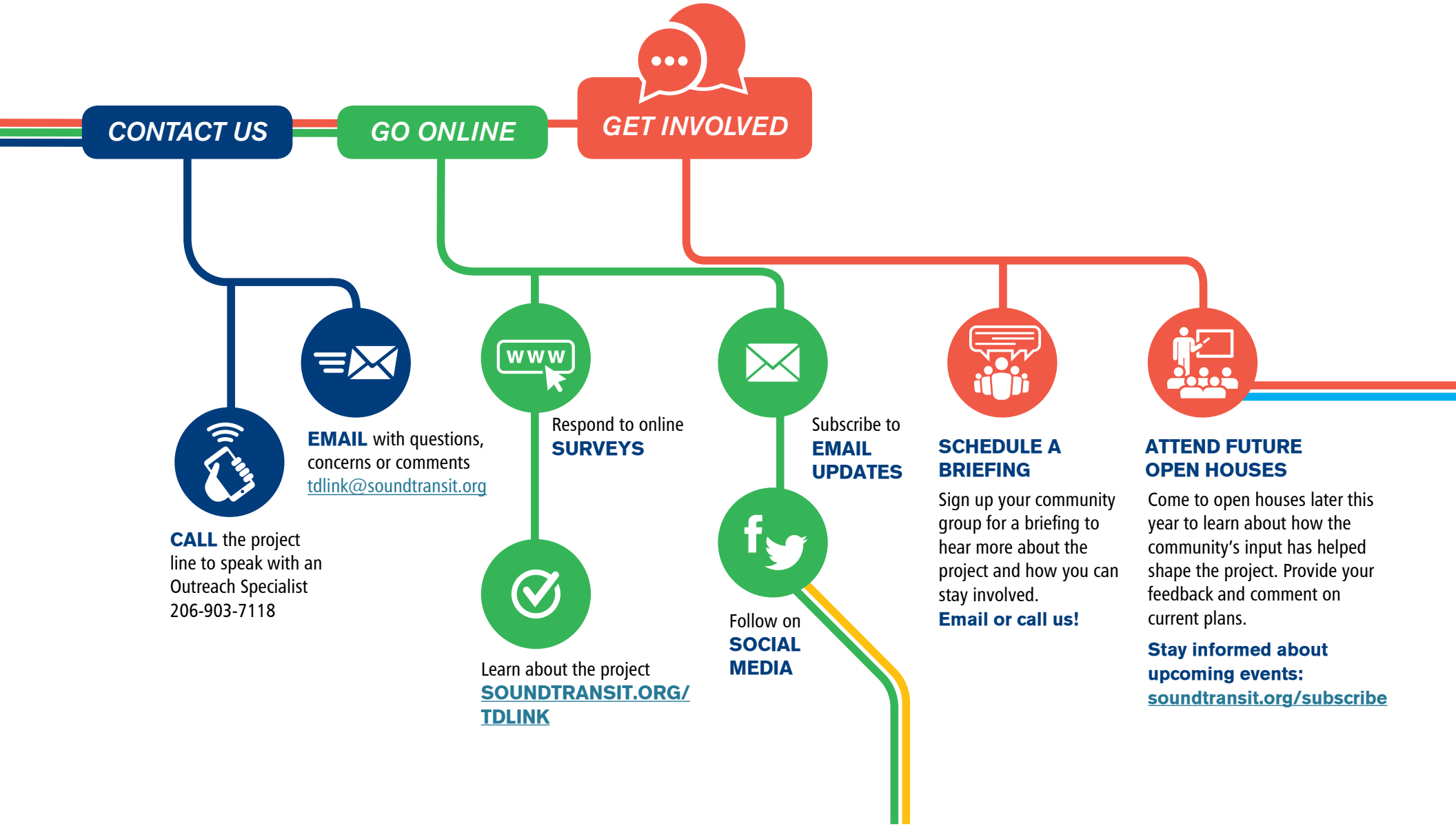
This group will convene throughout the planning process until a preferred alternative is identified.

Community engagement and collaboration process

The schedule below shows planned meetings across three levels of alternatives screening. Alternatives will be narrowed at each level until a preferred alternative is identified by the Sound Transit Board in June 2019. Dates are subject to change.


LEVEL 1 Conceptual Alternatives Screening
LEVEL 2 Detailed Alternatives Screening
Preferred Alternative Identification
Draft updated 8/28/2018
2018
2019
KEY
Route and Stations
OMF South
FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
Early Scoping Period
OMFS Environmental Scoping Period
Q4 2018 or Q1 2019, dates TBD
EIS Scoping Period
Community Updates
Early Scoping Public and Agency Meetings
Conceptual Alternatives Screening Progress Update Meetings (Level 1 Results)
Environmental Scoping for OMF South
EIS Scoping Public and Agency Meetings with Preliminary Preferred Alternative
Stakeholder Group
Kickoff and Launch Early Scoping (Study of Corridor)
Early Scoping Results, Level 1 Criteria
Level 1 Route and Stations Results
OMF South Sites
Advancing Level 2 Route and Stations Alternatives and Criteria
Level 2 Route and Stations Update
Level 2 Route and Stations Results and Preferred Alternative Discussion
Scoping Results, Recommendation of Route and Stations Preferred Alternative
Station Area Workshops
Workshop Series #1
Workshop Series #2
Workshop Series #3
Interagency Group
Elected Leadership Group
Kickoff Meeting
Launch Early Scoping
Early Scoping Results and Next Steps
Level 1 Route and Stations Results Preview
OMF South Sites Preview
Level 2 Route and Stations Alternatives and Criteria
OMF South Sites for Environmental Scoping*
Level 2 Route and Stations Update
OMF South Scoping Summary and Next Steps*
Level 2 Route and Stations Results and Preferred Alternative Discussion
Recommendation of Route and Stations Preferred Alternative and Other Options to Study
Tribe and City Council Coordination
To be detailed based on Tribal Engagement Plan and coordination with Tribes and Councils
City Councils' concurrence
Sound Transit Board
Kickoff Meeting
Route and Stations Level 1 Results, Advance Level 2 Alternatives
Identification of OMF South Sites for Environmental Review*
Level 2 Route and Stations Results and Preferred Alternative Discussion
Identification of Route and Stations Preferred Alternative
*Tentative; Sound Transit currently evaluating schedule

Get involved



CALL the project line to speak with an Outreach Specialist 206-903-7118

EMAIL with questions, concerns or comments tdlink@soundtransit.org

Respond to online **SURVEYS**

Learn about the project **SOUNDTRANSIT.ORG/TDLINK**

Subscribe to **EMAIL UPDATES**

Follow on **SOCIAL MEDIA**

SCHEDULE A BRIEFING

Sign up your community group for a briefing to hear more about the project and how you can stay involved.

Email or call us!

ATTEND FUTURE OPEN HOUSES

Come to open houses later this year to learn about how the community's input has helped shape the project. Provide your feedback and comment on current plans.

Stay informed about upcoming events:
soundtransit.org/subscribe

Glossary of terms

Alternatives development
Project phase during which staff will assess the representative project included in the ST3 Plan and, based on additional public engagement and technical analysis, further refine the specific route, station locations and other project elements.

Early scoping
Public process that engages the community to provide feedback and comments to help develop, evaluate and compare corridor alternatives as part of the alternatives analysis process.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
A document used for decision-making that analyzes impacts of project alternatives.

Environmental justice analysis
An evaluation of whether a project would result in disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and low-income populations after consideration of impacts, benefits and mitigation.

Environmental review
An evaluation of impacts and benefits to inform the public, agencies and decision makers about the environmental consequences of building and operating the project.

Preferred alternative
At the end of the alternatives development phase, the Sound Transit Board identifies a preferred alternative, including route and station options. The EIS further evaluates the preferred alternative as well as other alternatives. The final decision on the alternative to be built will not be made until after the Final EIS is issued.

Public engagement
A process that engages community members in a public dialogue about an issue that affects them.

Representative project
The representative projects were developed after years of public engagement and were included in the ST3 Plan to serve as starting points for developing more refined alternatives.

Sound Transit 3 (ST3)
The Sound Transit 3 Plan adds 62 new miles of light rail with 37 new stations. When complete, the Link light rail network will consist of 116 miles of light rail and 83 stations. The funding for ST3 was approved by voters in November 2016.

System Expansion Implementation Plan
A plan that describes Sound Transit's approach to delivering the expanded system of projects as well as needed reforms based on lessons learned from delivering major capital infrastructure to date.

CONTACT US

Visit our webpage and sign-up for project news
www.soundtransit.org/tdlink

Email tdlink@soundtransit.org

Call 206-903-7118

SoundTransit